Development of flying ships by IIT, Powai

2879. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether IIT, Powai has developed flying ships to ferry passengers in the Himalayas and in the North-East; and

(b) if so, by when the design would be developed for greater usage in remote places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) IIT, Powai has been sanctioned the first phase of a project for developing a few prototype airships as an alternative means of transportation for passengers as well as cargo for use in various terrains, especially the mountain regions. The project is to be implemented in three phases. The first phase is required to study and evaluate different design options, develop and freeze design parameters and identify potential industry partners within a period of six months.

Indo-Brazil MoU on Science and Technology

2880. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Science and Technology, during his recent visit to Brazil, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Science and Technology;

(b) if so, what are the details of the MoU;

(c) whether a proposal was also made during the visit to set up an Indo-Brazil Science Council to evaluate the programme of cooperation; and

(d) if so, by when this Science Council would be set up?